

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **HORNE ANNOUNCES FIRST-EVER TEACHER ACCOUNTABILITY PROCEDURE**

*Teachers will take performance assessment test*

PHOENIX (August 25, 2005) – State schools chief Tom Horne today announced that the Arizona Department of Education has signed an agreement with Education Testing Services and the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards to begin performance testing exams for Arizona teachers who begin teaching in the 2006 – 2007 school year.

The Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment (ATPA) is designed to ensure that all Arizona teachers demonstrate competence in teaching Arizona's curriculum standards in order to receive a continuing certificate after the first three years of teaching.

"For the first time ever, Arizona is going to make sure that teachers as well as administrators are held accountable to ensure that teachers are capably instructing students in accordance with the standards set by the state," Horne said. "Accountability has long been required of students and schools. It is appropriate to hold teachers and administrators accountable as well."

Under the ATPA process, beginning in 2006, incoming teachers will be granted provisional three-year certification with the possibility of a one-time additional three-year extension. Passing a written competency test will still be required in order to obtain a provisional certificate.

The Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment will require teachers to submit a video of their teaching along with written commentary and evidence, which will be evaluated by peers who have been specifically trained in scoring these assessments. The Arizona Department of Education is working with Teacher Preparation Programs in Arizona to ensure that teachers graduating from these programs are prepared to successfully complete this assessment. In addition, ADE is working with other stakeholders to insure that mentoring is available for all new teachers.

Teachers will have five chances to pass the first stage of national board certification. Arizona is the first state to adopt this provision. If teachers fail after five attempts, they will have to leave teaching. This action was authorized by the State Board of Education at its June, 2005 meeting.

“Implementing this performance assessment is a major step in fulfilling a commitment to ensure that all Arizona teachers are teaching at the level that is required to ensure student achievement.” Horne added. “Highly qualified teachers are the most important factor for developing students who can excel academically.”

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